Abstract

A wound protector and retractor device 1 comprises a sleeve 2, a distal member provided by a distal ring 3 of resilient material and a proximal member provided by a proximal ring 4. The sleeve 2 is led around the ring 3 and is free to move axially relative to the distal ring 3 somewhat in the manner of a pulley. The proximal ring 4 is fixed to the sleeve 2, in this case at the proximal inner end thereof. The sleeve 2 terminates in a handle or gripping portion which is reinforced by a gripping ring 15. The sleeve extends from the proximal ring 4 and the distal ring 3 is contained between inner and outer layers 2a, 2b of the sleeve 2. The resilient distal ring 3 is scrunched up and inserted through the incision 6. The sleeve 2 is then pulled upwardly. On pulling of the sleeve 2 upwardly the outer layer 2b is pulled up while the inner layer 2a is drawn around the proximal ring 3. This results in shortening the axial extent between the proximal ring 4 and the distal ring 3, tensioning the sleeve and applying a retraction force to the margins of the incision 6. As the incision is being retracted the margins are also protected by the sleeve. On retraction, an access port is provided, for example for a surgeon to insert his hand and/or an instrument to perform a procedure. The device may be used as a retractor in open surgery or as a base for a valve/seal to allow it to be used in hand assisted laparoscopic surgery or for instrument access or hand access generally.

[Fig. 9]